

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168998

FOLL RPT USUN 2793 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS ROME

TEL AVIV JUL 8

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC

SUBJ: CIRCULATION OF LEBANESE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO

SC PRESIDENT

1. SUMMARY: DURING INDIVIDUAL SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULATATIONS ON JULY 7, SC PRESIDENT VINCI (ITALY) TOLD GOV SCRANTON AMB BENNETT AND MISOFFS THAT THE PREVAILING VIEW OF SC MEMBERS WAS THAT PRINCIPLE OF CIRCULATING DOCUMENTS AS REQUESTED BY MEMBER STATES SHOULD BE UPHELD. SCRANTON STRESSED IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO THIS PRINCIPLE. VINCI PROPOSED THAT HE, VINCI, CONFER AGAIN WITH AMB GHORRA (LEBANON) AND THEN HOLD FURTHER CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. UN SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT VINCI (ITALY) DURING INDIVIDUAL SC MEMBER CONSULTATIONS TOLD GOV SCRANTON JULY 7 THAT HE HAD OBTAINED VIEWS FROM ALL SC MEMBERS AND PREVAILING VIEWPOINT WAS THAT IF A PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTS THE SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO CIRCULATE A DOCUMENT THEN PRESIDENT CANNOT AVOID SO DOING. RESERVATIONS WERE EXPRESSED BY LIBYA, WHO HAS OPPOSED FROM THE OUTSET THE CIRCULATION OF

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GHORRA'S LETTER, CHINA WHO WAS NONCOMMITTAL, AND USSR WHO

HELD STRONG RESERVATIONS ASSERTING THAT KARAME'S LETTERS (USUN 2779) ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES WITH REGARD TO GHORRA'S LETTER.

3. VANCE ADDED THAT SC MEMBERS ALSO EXPRESSED COMMON ATTITUDE IN NOT WANTING SC TO BECOME INVOLVED IN LEBANON'S CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEM. VINCI CONTINUED THAT DURING INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS THE SUGGESTION WAS RAISED THAT ONCE AMB GHORRA'S LETTER WAS PUBLISHED THEN THERE WAS LIKELIHOOD THAT A REQUEST WOULD BE PUT FORWARD FOR KARAME'S LETTERS TO BE PUBLISHED ALSO. VINCI SAID AT THIS JUNCTURE HE COULD PUBLISH GHORRA'S LETTER WHICH SOME SC MEMBERS WOULD AGREE TO RELUCTANTLY OR HE COULD SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE THAT WOULD SATISFY ALL.

4. THE ALTERNATIVES WHICH HAD SURFACED TOOK VARIOUS FORMS. VINCI EXPLAINED. ONE WAS A REVIVAL OF AMB GHORRA'S INITIAL APPEAL LAST MONTH FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO MEET AND TO CALL FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN LEBANON; ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONSENT TO PUBLISHING GHORRA'S LETTER AS A NOTE VERBALE (A SEPARATE UNITED NATIONS SERIES); A THIRD POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO ISSUE A STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS OR A MEETING AND THEN PUBLISH GHORRA'S AND KARAME'S LETTERS.

5. VINCI CONCLUDED THAT IN HIS MEETING YESTERDAY WITH AMB GHORRA THE LATTER HAD REMAINED FIRM IN HIS WISH TO HAVE HIS LETTER CIRCULATED. VINCI SAID GHORRA HAD INDICATED HOWEVER THAT THERE WAS NO URGENCY AND THAT HE WOULD BE CONTENT TO WAIT FOR TWO OR THREE MORE DAYS WHILE THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCLUDED CONSULTATIONS. GOV SCRANTON REMARKED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT OF FOREMOST IMPORTANCE AS THE U.S. VIEWED THE MATTER WAS UPHOLDING THE PRINCIPLE OF MEMBER STATES BEING ABLE TO HAVE LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED AS REQUESTED OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. AMB BENNETT ADDED THAT SINCE ALL MEMBERS AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF UPHOLDING THIS PRINCIPLE THE COURSE OF ACTION SEEMED CLEAR TO PROCEED TO PUBLISH GHORRA'S LETTER AND THEN IF ANOTHER REQUEST WAS RECEIVED FOR KARAME'S LETTERS TO BE CIRCULATED THEN IT TOO WOULD HAVE TO BE HONORED. AT THIS POINT VINCI MADE AN

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OBLIQUE REMARK TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRESIDENCY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD NOT AVOID POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. THE CONSULTATIONS CONCLUDED WITH VINCE PROMISING TO BE IN TOUCH AFTER HIS MEETING JULY 8 WITH AMB GHORRA. SCRANTON

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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